

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

2 1. (Canceled)

2. (Original) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy comprises a composition expressed by the general formula:

$\text{Ti (100-a-b-c-d) CrVbNicXd}$

where X is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Y (yttrium), lanthanoids, Pd and Pt, each of a, b, c and d is represented, in terms of atomic %, by the relations $8 \leq a \leq 50$, $0 < b \leq 30$, $5 \leq c \leq 15$, $2 \leq d \leq 10$ and $40 \leq a + b + c + d \leq 90$; and a crystal structure of a principal phase which converted to a body-centered cubic structure by heat-treatment.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2, wherein the heat-treatment comprises solution treatment conducted for 1 min to 100 hr at a

temperature range of from 700 to 1500°C, and one or both treatments selected from quenching and aging of from 350 to 1200°C after solution treatment.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy having the composition according to claim 2, wherein the principle phase exists within the range where a body-centered cubic structure appears and a spinodal decomposition occurs, exclusive of a C14 single-phase region ~~region, where C14 is a typical structure of a Laves phase and MgZn₂ type crystal structure~~; and said principal phase has a regular periodical structure and its ~~apparent~~ mean lattice constant is from 0.2950 nm to 0.3150 nm.

10. (Previously Presented) A cell electrode comprising said hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2.

11. (Currently Amended) A cell electrode according to claim 10, wherein said cell electrode has ~~excellent~~ cell characteristics in the maximum discharge capacity and the capacity retaining ratio after 100 charge/discharge cycles.



12. (Previously Presented) A cell electrode according to claim 11, wherein the maximum discharge capacity is 375 to 465 mAh/g and the capacity retaining ratio after 100 charge/discharge cycles is 80 to 95%.

13. (New) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2, wherein $0 < b < 30$.

14. (New) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2, wherein $0 < b \leq 20$.

15. (New) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2, wherein $10 \leq b \leq 20$.

